

## CARVED SEDILLA, ST. MARY'S, WEST BROMPTON.



## ST. MARY'S, WEST BROMPTON.

St. Mary's Church, West Brompton, to be consecrated on Tuesday, 22nd inst., by the Right Rev. Charles James, Lord Bishop of London, who has probably performed that office more often than any previous bishop, is built from the designs, and under the direction, of Mr. Godwin, on an estate belonging to Robert Gunter, Esq., situated between the Fulham-road and the Old Brompton-road, in the parish of Kensington. It is an offshoot of the Brompton District Church, whereof the Rev. W. J. Irons is the incumbent; and has been erected by funds raised, in small part, by subscription, and from the Church Commis-

sioners, but mainly provided by the Rev. Hogarth J. Swale, the perpetual curate. In a previous volume we gave an external view of the building,\* which showed that it was a cross church (this form was prescribed to the architect), without aisles, with a bell-cot at the west end,† and an octagon lantern and spire at the junction of transept, intended to be open to the church. The design has been carried out with the exception of the lantern and spire, which are postponed for a short period. The square tower is taken up its proper height, with equinoches in the angles, from which the

\* Vol. VII. page 283.

† The bell-cot was shown to be in two stories, but in execution was confined to one.

octagon lantern will rise, and has a high pyramidal temporary roof, with metal cross and vane.

Annexed is a view of the interior of the church, looking west, and showing the entrance to north transept. The nave is 86 feet long within the walls, 33 feet wide, and 46 feet high to ridge; the side walls are 22 feet high to wall-plate. The tower is 17 feet square inside, and the thickness of the moulded stone arches which carry it is 4 feet. The transept is 81 feet from north to south; 20 feet 6 inches wide; 38 feet high; and has a large traceried window at each end. The available area in each arm of the transept is 28 feet by 20 feet 6 inches in width; and this is also the size of the chancel. The transept was designed by the architect to be shorter, but was extended to meet a greater demand for accommodation than was at first anticipated. The north transept will be mainly occupied by the organ, built by Mr. Bishop, which is at the north end of it, and by the choir. The walls are of stone throughout: externally of Kentish Rag, with Bath stone dressings; and internally of Hassock. The roofs are all open, with the exception of that of chancel, which is boarded, in panels, with carved bosses at the intersections. The corbels which receive the arch-ribs of the nave roof present carved figures of the twelve apostles.

The walls are rendered with lias, not jointed, though accidentally so represented in the engraving. The nave and transept are paved with black, red, and buff tiles in patterns: the chancel with encaustic tiles by Minton. The chancel has two canopied sedilia on the south side, (of which we give an engraving), exceedingly well carved by Swales and Bolton. A small niche on the other side, the shelf of which is carried by a carved angel, serves as the credence-table. There are two rows of seats on each side of the chancel with open traceried fronts of oak; the seats throughout, with ornamental ends, are of deal, stained and varnished. The various doors are of oak, with wrought-iron hinges by Potter, who also executed the branches for gas, and the ornamental iron-work throughout. The font, which stands at the west end, on a step, opposite the south door, and the pulpit, are of Caen-stone. The prayers will be read from a carved oak movable desk, facing north and west, not shown in the engraving.

The coloured decorations, necessarily limited at present, are confined mainly to the east end, and comprise the Lord's Prayer and Belief illuminated under painted canopies on each side of the east window; the Commandments under similar canopies on the east wall of the nave (on either side of the arch); a rich diaper, red and gold,† under east window, forming reredos of altar; and a diaper at back of sedilia, with the pelican and *Agnus Dei*: the whole exceedingly well done by Mr. W. H. Rogers. On a screen at the west end are emblazoned on six panels the royal arms, with those of Mr. Swale and Mr. Gunter (the donor of the site, and in other respects a munificent contributor); and the arms of the bishop, with, on either side, those of Mr. Irons and the rectors of Kensington, the Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair.

The south window of chancel is filled with Messrs. Powell's quarries (a good specimen), the gift of the architect; and two windows on the south side of nave are filled with stained glass, as memorial windows, also by Powell. The east window will hereafter have stained glass by Hardman. The tracery of north transept window is filled with stained glass by O'Connor.

The general contract for the nave was first undertaken by Mr. Barr, but was afterwards taken up and completed by Mr. Glenn in a very satisfactory manner. The church will accommodate 750 persons, and the total cost, exclusive of spire, will be 6,000*l*.

Notwithstanding the form of the church and the length of the nave, it promises to be successful in point of sound: more so than the architect had a right to expect. Should it prove so when filled, we shall perhaps be excused for reverting to the subject.

\* The parapet and carved cornice, externally, are of Caen stone.

† L. H. C., Ely and cross alternately.